IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants submit a replacement sheet containing corrected formal Fig. 2, namely removing element 210. No new matter has been introduced.

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## REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9, 11-16, 32, and 43 are now pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration.

### Amendment

Fig. 2 and the specification have been amended to overcome all objections raised by the examiner. Claims 8, 10, 17-31, 33-42, and 44 have been canceled, and claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 13, 15, 32, and 43 have been amended. Specifically, independent claims 1, 32, and 43 have been amended to further define the invention, namely incorporating, inter alia, the features of claims 8 and 10. No new matter has been introduced.

### Drawing Objection

The present amendment to the specification and Fig. 2 obviates all drawing objections raised by the examiner.

### Art Rejection

Claims 21 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Fan (USP 6,757,081). Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-17, 19, 20, 22-26, 28-33, 35, 36, and 38-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Fan in view of Tsa (USP 6,327,056). Claims 4 and 27 were rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Fan in view of Tsai and Oh (USP 6,665,096). Claims 9, 18, and 34 were rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Fan in view of Tsai and Enomoto (USP 6,600,548). Applicants submit that none of the applied references would have taught at least the storing sequence as set forth in independent claims 1, 32, and 43.

Claims 1, 32, and 43 call for changing the storing sequence of the image data between storing and not storing the image data in the first storing means/storage section based on whether the first or second processing mode is selected. Specifically, when the second processing mode is selected, the second storing means/storage section stores the image data after the first storing means/storage section stores the image data output from the image input apparatus. When the first processing mode is selected, the second storing means/storage section stores the image data, on which the image input apparatus executes the image processing, output from the image input apparatus, without the image data output from the image input apparatus being stored in the first storing means/storage section.

Fan discloses a system 30 for analyzing scanned images. The system 30 includes a CPU 32 for receiving and processing image data or a portion thereof to be analyzed. The CPU includes a storage device for storing image data. A keyboard 38 or other input device can be used to send commands or input data to the CPU 32. For example, the keyboard 38 can be used to select or confirm settings for a scanner 40, which can be linked to the CPU 32 over the network 34. See column 6, lines 11-26. The scanner 40 can be a conventional flatbed scanner, a continuous feed, sheet-fed or scroll-fed scanner, or other media-transport device that can sense information on a medium, such as on a document. See column 6, lines 33-36. The CPU can send the scanned image file to a number of destinations, including an OCR application 44 and an image-processing program 50. The CPU 32 sets the scanner 40 to acquire the data corresponding to the image at the proper resolution and bit depth necessary for optimum processing by the applications program. See column 6, lines 41-60.

Fan stores the preview image data in an image cache (step 72) for subsequent processing (step 74), such as for sizing, sharpening, tone adjustment, etc. The processed preview image is then displayed in the user interface program 54 (which is run in the CPU 32) for viewing or editing. When the last preview is approved, the image area is established and the scan settings are established (step 78). See column 7, line 59, to column 8, line 3. The final scanning is achieved thereafter.

Fan clearly calls for the CPU 32 to process the scanned image. That is, Fan does not disclose or suggest that its scanner 40 processes the scanned image data. Even if Fan's scanner 40 were to be of the standalone type capable of processing the image data without a separate CPU, Fan neither discloses nor suggests selecting between the CPU 32 and the scanner 40 to process the scanned image data, while changing the storing sequence of the image data based selecting the CPU 32 or the scanner 40.

Tsai discloses an image scanner that generates a primary image and an auxiliary image to correct the damaged image generated from a scratched document. The scanner delivers the auxiliary image data to a connected host. The host pre-processes the auxiliary image data to generate a reference image with only scratched area. Then, the host corrects the primary image according to the reference image by a correction procedure that forms a higher quality image. The image processing functions also can be built into the scanning device and provide the final result to the host. See column 3, lines 24-31. Tsai thus discloses a scanner itself that can pre-process the auxiliary image data to generate a reference image and correct the primary image data according to the reference image. Nonetheless, Tsai also fails to disclose or suggests 1) selecting either the host or the scanner to be used to pre-process the auxiliary

image data and correct the primary image data, and 2) changing the storing sequence of the primary image data and the auxiliary image data, based on the selection. Tsai thus fails to alleviate Fan's shortcomings noted above.

Oh discloses an apparatus for enhancing an image quality by correcting the distortion of an image reading sensor or a light source and controlling the contrast/brightness of the object. Oh discloses converting an analog image signal into digital data by using a changed value of contrast, and a changed value of brightness, and binarizing the image data. Oh fails to disclose or teach selecting either the apparatus for image processing or another apparatus for execute image processing on the analog image signal, and changing the storing sequence of the analog image signal and the digital data based on the selection. Thus, Oh also fails to alleviate Fan's shortcomings noted above.

Enomoto discloses an image processing apparatus that can enhance an image caused by aberrations in the optical components of an imaging device. Enomoto discloses a correction intensity storing subsection 60a for storing correction intensity established on an image. See column 13, lines 23-25. Moreover, Enomoto discloses that correction intensity about one image from among a plurality of images to be subjected to the same correction is established and the same image correction is consecutively performed on other images by the thus established correction intensity. See column 25, lines 29-35. Enomoto also fails to disclose or teach selecting either the image processing apparatus or another apparatus for performing the correction of the image quality deterioration, and changing the storing sequence of the image based on the selection. Thus, Enomoto, like the rest of the applied references, also fails to alleviate Fan's shortcomings noted above.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that the pending claims patentably distinguish over the applied references and are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSSI, KIMMS & McDOWELL LLP

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DATE

LYLE KIMMS
REG. NO. 34,079 (RULE 34, WHERE APPLICABLE)

P.O. BOX 826
ASHBURN, VA 20146-0826
703-726-6020 (PHONE)
703-726-6024 (FAX)